

§ 250.417

30 CFR Ch. II (7–1–11 Edition)

(e) Independent third party verification and supporting documentation that show the blind-shear rams installed in the BOP stack are capable of shearing any drill pipe in the hole under maximum anticipated surface pressure. The documentation must include test results and calculations of shearing capacity of all pipe to be used in the well including correction for MASP;

(f) When you use a subsea BOP stack, independent third party verification that shows:

(1) the BOP stack is designed for the specific equipment on the rig and for the specific well design;

(2) The BOP stack has not been compromised or damaged from previous service;

(3) The BOP stack will operate in the conditions in which it will be used; and

(g) The qualifications of the independent third party referenced in paragraphs (e) and (f) of this section:

(1) The independent third party in paragraph (e) in this section must be a technical classification society; an API-licensed manufacturing, inspection, or certification firm; or a licensed professional engineering firm capable of providing the verifications required under this part. The independent third party must not be the original equipment manufacturer (OEM).

(2) You must:

(i) Include evidence that the firm you are using is reputable, the firm or its employees hold appropriate licenses to perform the verification in the appropriate jurisdiction, the firm carries industry-standard levels of professional liability insurance, and the firm has no record of violations of applicable law.

(ii) Ensure that an official representative of BOEMRE will have access to the location to witness any testing or inspections, and verify information submitted to BOEMRE. Prior to any shearing ram tests or inspections, you must notify the District Manager at least 24 hours in advance.

[68 FR 8423, Feb. 20, 2003, as amended at 75 FR 63372, Oct. 14, 2010]

§ 250.417 What must I provide if I plan to use a mobile offshore drilling unit (MODU)?

If you plan to use a MODU, you must provide:

(a) *Fitness requirements.* You must provide information and data to demonstrate the drilling unit's capability to perform at the proposed drilling location. This information must include the maximum environmental and operational conditions that the unit is designed to withstand, including the minimum air gap necessary for both hurricane and non-hurricane seasons. If sufficient environmental information and data are not available at the time you submit your APD, the District Manager may approve your APD but require you to collect and report this information during operations. Under this circumstance, the District Manager has the right to revoke the approval of the APD if information collected during operations show that the drilling unit is not capable of performing at the proposed location.

(b) *Foundation requirements.* You must provide information to show that site-specific soil and oceanographic conditions are capable of supporting the proposed drilling unit. If you provided sufficient site-specific information in your EP, DPP, or DOCD, you may reference that information. The District Manager may require you to conduct additional surveys and soil borings before approving the APD if additional information is needed to make a determination that the conditions are capable of supporting the drilling unit.

(c) *Frontier areas.* (1) If the design of the drilling unit you plan to use in a frontier area is unique or has not been proven for use in the proposed environment, the District Manager may require you to submit a third-party review of the unit's design. If required, you must obtain the third-party review according to § 250.915 through § 250.918. You may submit this information before submitting an APD.

(2) If you plan to drill in a frontier area, you must have a contingency plan that addresses design and operating limitations of the drilling unit. Your plan must identify the actions

necessary to maintain safety and prevent damage to the environment. Actions must include the suspension, curtailment, or modification of drilling or rig operations to remedy various operational or environmental situations (e.g. vessel motion, riser offset, anchor tensions, wind speed, wave height, currents, icing or ice-loading, settling, tilt or lateral movement, resupply capability).

(d) *U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) documentation.* You must provide the current Certificate of Inspection or Letter of Compliance from the USCG. You must also provide current documentation of any operational limitations imposed by an appropriate classification society.

(e) *Floating drilling unit.* If you use a floating drilling unit, you must indicate that you have a contingency plan for moving off location in an emergency situation.

(f) *Inspection of unit.* The drilling unit must be available for inspection by the District Manager before commencing operations.

(g) Once the District Manager has approved a MODU for use, you do not need to re-submit the information required by this section for another APD to use the same MODU unless changes in equipment affect its rated capacity to operate in the District.

[68 FR 8423, Feb. 20, 2003, as amended at 72 FR 25201, May 4, 2007]

§ 250.418 What additional information must I submit with my APD?

You must include the following with the APD:

(a) Rated capacities of the drilling rig and major drilling equipment, if not already on file with the appropriate District office;

(b) A drilling fluids program that includes the minimum quantities of drilling fluids and drilling fluid materials, including weight materials, to be kept at the site;

(c) A proposed directional plot if the well is to be directionally drilled;

(d) A Hydrogen Sulfide Contingency Plan (see § 250.490), if applicable, and not previously submitted;

(e) A welding plan (see §§ 250.109 to 250.113) if not previously submitted;

(f) In areas subject to subfreezing conditions, evidence that the drilling equipment, BOP systems and components, diverter systems, and other associated equipment and materials are suitable for operating under such conditions;

(g) A request for approval if you plan to wash out or displace some cement to facilitate casing removal upon well abandonment;

(h) Certification of your casing and cementing program as required in § 250.420(a)(6);

(i) Description of qualifications required by § 250.416(f) of any independent third party; and

(j) Such other information as the District Manager may require.

[68 FR 8423, Feb. 20, 2003, as amended at 75 FR 63372, Oct. 14, 2010]

CASING AND CEMENTING REQUIREMENTS

§ 250.420 What well casing and cementing requirements must I meet?

You must case and cement all wells. Your casing and cementing programs must meet the requirements of this section and of §§ 250.421 through 250.428.

(a) *Casing and cementing program requirements.* Your casing and cementing programs must:

(1) Properly control formation pressures and fluids;

(2) Prevent the direct or indirect release of fluids from any stratum through the wellbore into offshore waters;

(3) Prevent communication between separate hydrocarbon-bearing strata;

(4) Protect freshwater aquifers from contamination;

(5) Support unconsolidated sediments; and

(6) Include certification signed by a Registered Professional Engineer that there will be at least two independent tested barriers, including one mechanical barrier, across each flow path during well completion activities and that the casing and cementing design is appropriate for the purpose for which it is intended under expected wellbore conditions. The Registered Professional Engineer must be registered in a State in the United States. Submit this certification with your APD (Form MMS-123).